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Brasher Bulletin

SUMMER EDITION - JULY 2013

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*England, George II Gold coin
1740 EB for Ephraim Brasher in oval cut towards
Script JB monogram for John Burger
VF. Clipped. Plugged by Ephraim Brasher
Realized: \$46,000*



*Portugal, Jose V 6400 Reis
1739. Lisbon mint
EB mark for Ephraim Brasher
F4-C mark for Lewis Foster and C
XF. Clipped and re-edged
Realized: \$34,500*



*Brazil, Jose I 6400 Reis
1758-R. Rio mint
EB mark in oval for Ephraim Brasher
F4-C mark in oval for Lewis Foster and C
XF. Relief plug visible on reverse.
Realized: \$34,500*



*Portugal, Jose V 800 Reis (fractional piece)
1740. Lisbon mint
EB mark for Ephraim Brasher
VF. Clipped. Marked EB in oval for Ephraim Brasher
Realized: \$20,900*



*Chile, Carlos III 8 Escudos
1775 DA. Santiago mint
EB in oval for Ephraim Brasher in oval
VF. Clipped
Realized: \$84,500*



*France, Louis XV Louis d'or aux armes
1735-R. Orleans mint
EB mark in oval for Ephraim Brasher
VF. Holed and plugged
Realized: \$17,250*

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**Special points of
interest:**

- Several outstanding articles were submitted for publication in this edition of the Brasher
- Fractionals Lost at Sea Story
- Extensive list of recent auction sales of Territorial gold.
- Cayuga Joint Stock Company article
- Fairbanks Gold Dust article from 1914

Inside this issue:

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Brasher Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 3

July 2013

From The Editor

THE EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

In this edition of the Brasher we introduce two exciting books, *Anatomy of an Ingot* and *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"*, and invite you to attend the annual meeting taking place in Chicago at ANA. This edition also highlights a gold rush themed winery in the Sierra foothills and send you back to 1849 New York to experience a gold rush adventure and voyage.

With the recent movement in the price of precious metals, we can appreciate the safety and value we find once again in our shared enjoyment of private and pioneer numismatics and I hope



you find this edition of the Brasher no different.

With best wishes for an enjoyable summer,

Don



Come for the Gold, Stay for the Wine

Louis "Skip" Carufel

A two-hour drive east from San Francisco brings you to one of the world's most astonishing chunks of gold. The "Gold Pocket"—as it has come to be known—is one of the largest Crystalline Gold Leaf specimen ever found. Crystalline Gold is a rare and precious natural gold formation, consisting of gold deposited in layers between quartz, clay, maraposite, decomposed shale, and pyrite. Gold Pocket is just such a deposit, now on display at the Ironstone Heritage Museum and Winery where it sparkles in the eyes of visiting gold bugs as well as school children.

Not long ago three of us gold bugs left the Bay Area well before noon and drove up to the scenic Sierra Foot Hills of California, wherein lies the Ironstone Heritage Museum, a mile from the town of Murphys. The road approaching the Museum winds through vineyards and apple orchards, and when we arrived we found that Ironstone Heritage Museum is part of Ironstone Winery, a family venture founded in 1988 by the Kautz family (of Lodi grape-growing fame). The winery and museum share grounds that are spacious and landscaped and well-appointed with gardens, an outdoor stage, and a delicatessen. We opted to see Gold Pocket first, parked, and headed for the Museum.

Gold Pocket has its own room, a vault resembling a mine shaft, and glitters under spotlights behind thick glass. It looks like gold coral in the shape of a giant shark tooth. Placards informed us that Gold Pocket was the biggest of several



large specimens discovered around Christmas Day, 1992, by the Sonora Mining Company at a small mine only 15 miles from the present-day museum. (The mine has since shut down.) At the time, the mine was thought to be incapable of producing high-grade gold, certainly nothing as rich as Gold Pocket. When discovered, Gold Pocket weighed 63 pounds. But after a year in acid to dissolve the surrounding matrix, the chunk came out to forty-four pounds of 98 percent gold, a specimen of exceedingly high quality and value.



The museum is a grand tour of California's Gold Rush days, displaying relics from the 19th Century gold mining era alongside artifacts from the Miwoks, early Native American inhabitants who lived in this area. Photos, mining maps, tools, and personal articles carried from the Old World are tastefully displayed throughout the museum. Framed letters written by miners to family and friends back home adorn the walls. We moved from one display to another. My fellow gold bugs and I were like kids in a candy store.

The Heritage Museum also features natural gold specimens acquired from modern-day prospectors still very active in the Sierra Foothills. A gift shop offered a wide variety of books and educational materials, artifacts and souvenirs, and gold jewelry. We could easily have

spent our entire afternoon in the museum, but lunch beckoned.

On our way to the delicatessen we passed flower beds abloom in yellow daffodils, wine-aging caves, a 42-foot-tall fireplace, ponds with ducks and Canada geese, waterfalls, a concert amphitheater, a culinary center, gold panning sluices, and numerous antique winemaking, mining, and railroad equipment. The museum/winery grounds, crisscrossed with pathways and canals and terraces, hosts weddings, garden shows, corporate retreats, hands-on gold panning, vintage car shows,

even concerts with big name bands: Steve Miller, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Crosby, Stills & Nash have performed live. There was so much to see. In search of Gold Pocket, the world's largest Crystalline Gold Leaf specimen, we had found Ironstone Winery, California's largest "winery entertainment complex."

We shared the delicatessen with a gaggle of school children enjoying a field trip to learn about California's early history. Most of them were chattering about the geese they had fed or the gold they had just seen, and about the gold panning later that afternoon. Choosing patio tables overlooking the gardens, we lunched on gourmet sandwiches, hot soup, salads, and home-made desserts. And wine. The delicatessen is adjacent the Tasting Room, featuring a long, heavy oak bar that had been crafted in New York in 1907 and shipped all the way around South America to California. I found the 2011 Ironstone Pinot Grigio and the 2010 Reserve Old Vine Zinfandel outstanding, which was no surprise as the Sierra Foothills produces some of the best Zinfandels in California. (There is a tasting fee of \$5.00 for 6 tastes). I bought a few bottles to take home.

We finished lunch in time for a winery tour. (Free tours are offered at 1:30 p.m. and start in front of that magnificent fireplace.) We entered the winery through tall redwood doors and past stainless steel tanks for fermenting then aging wine. For the most part, the winery is underground, in caverns hewn from rock that was so hard and difficult the miners often said it was like blasting through iron. Hence the name "Ironstone Winery." Natural stalactites, stalagmites, and waterfalls cover the walls. The caverns maintain a year-round temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and hold about 1,500 60-gallon French and American oak barrels. Combined with the stainless steel tanks, that's one million gallons of wine; more than four million bottles. Our tour guide drew a sample of chardonnay from a barrel and held it up to the ceiling light. It looked rich and creamy, with a hue best described as golden. Back in the warm sunshine, and on our way to the car, we wanted one last look at Gold Pocket, and ventured back into the museum and shop. One gold bug bought a book about "Gold Pocket." Before we arrived at the car we passed the panning sluice and heard excited school kids claiming that they'd discovered gold. During the westward drive home our fellow gold bug paged through his Gold Pocket book and read excerpts. And as we neared the Bay Area the sun was setting on one of those rare and precious fogless Bay Area evenings. The sunset, too, was golden.

Fantastic Discovery - Serial #1 Brownback from Juneau, Alaska Territory!

New items can and are being discovered all the time. Probably none as fantastic as the serial #1 Brownback from Juneau in the Alaska Territory! This note was displayed at the recent paper money show in Memphis and had the entire floor buzzing. Nothing like this was even rumored to exist, yet in apparent Uncirculated condition and serial #1.

When the owner was asked about the value he stated that it was slightly less than priceless. It seems that with all the research presently being performed by currency specialists, numismatists, and general collectors, occasional finds although not a weekly or monthly occurrence, do occasionally occur and subsequently make headlines. New varieties of federal coinage or finds of rare or once unique items are definitely noteworthy.



Brief facts on the First Bank of Juneau

Organized: February 15, 1898

Opened: April 18, 1898

Initial Capitalization: \$12,500

Bureau of Engraving and Printing certified proofs were approved on April 19, 1898. The first currency shipment to the bank left the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on May 6, 1898, and included sheets 1 through 221 of Series 1882 Brown Backs (10-10-10-20) amounting to \$11,050



Horseshoe Building - Home of the
First National Bank of Juneau

In other related discoveries the note pictured here just recently discovered is from the Providence Co-op in northern Utah. It is a previously unknown scrip from a co-op, which up till now, was thought to have never issued scrip or token coinage. Keep looking through your coins and collections, who knows, you may have an unknown variety or something very special.



Ahoy! Cal Fractionals Lost at Sea

Fred N. Holabird

Introduction

Cal Fractional coins were a bit of an unknown for decades. They have been known to a few collectors since their first issue. Specimens were collected and offered in many of the pre-1900 numismatic auctions. They were a bit of a nuisance, because collectors did not know how to classify them since they were not officially a US produced coin, and little information about them was available. Still, they showed up in early auction catalogs and were collected as heavily as other general or private issue gold coins. Robert Leonard published a fine article in the Brasher Bulletin "Collectors of Small California Gold", revised for this catalog.

Collectors began assembling collections, not knowing positively if they were actually used in circulation until full proof came from their discovery among the salvage of sunken ships. Alas! Treasure! California collectors gladly would trade their pieces of eight for these tiny California coin morsels.

Three of the greatest wrecks of the Gold Rush period are known to have recovered Cal fractional gold coins.

First Hand Glimpse of the Market

When I was a toddler attending Humboldt State University (then "Humboldt State College"), I quickly found out that half the guys were outdoor freaks, just like me. The guys in the dorms were all active athletes who loved being outside. Every weekend, guys were either out fishing (oceans and rivers: steelhead, salmon, trout, halibut, you name it), sluicing for gold, running, or diving. The guys diving on the wrecks were continually coming up with stuff. I drooled over the old coral and shell encrusted bottles, often seen in a little shop in Trinidad. The gold coins went to a coin shop on H Street in Eureka, where I started going in 1971. Never able to afford such luxuries, I regularly stopped by to look and dream. Divers found coins in the Gold Rush wrecks off Trinidad and Crescent City, including the Brother Jonathan. I was hooked.

Back then nobody kept track of what was found. As a recreational hobby, the divers weren't hard-core coin collectors. I can't recall anyone ever listing what they found or when, nor publishing any of the data. Who knew that over time, the "treasure" aspect of coin collecting would take off into what it is today.

Here are some notes on famous Gold Rush wrecks that produced gold coins:

SS Tennessee, sank March 6, 1853

The wreck of the Tennessee sits on the headlands outside of San Francisco Bay near the entrance. It was salvaged when it sank, with no loss of life. While passengers, crew, and cargo were all "recovered", for many years after, salvage efforts were made to get coins and artifacts left behind during the hustle to get off the ship before it forever perished in the sea. The site is now known as "Tennessee Cove". There is no known list of recovered goods.

Yankee Blade, sank October 1, 1854

This steamer sank off the California coast near Santa Barbara. Long the target of treasure-hunting divers, hundreds of gold coins were recovered over the century after her sinking, and still more with the technological advance of SCUBA. No records were kept of the finds, but many of the coins sold into the numismatic market include "clumps" of 1854-S US \$20 coins, still in the hands of collectors today. It has long been rumored that Cal fractional gold coins were recovered, but because recovery efforts were long before the "treasure" craze, there is nothing recorded. Dave Bowers reported in *American Coin Treasures and Hoards* (1997), that "about 300 specimens" of 1854-S \$20s were found, but stated that there was no clear evidence that they came from this wreck other than the "shipwreck effect" appearance of the coins.

Golden Fleece, sank April 22, 1854

The Golden Fleece sank on the rocks at Fort Point on the edge of San Francisco Bay. Like the Tennessee, there was no loss of life. The ship was ultimately sold for salvage, but over the years, divers searched the wreck site for coins and artifacts left behind after salvage efforts finally dismantled the ship on site. While rumors abound about discoveries from 30-40 years ago, there is nothing concrete.

SS Winfield Scott, sank December 2, 1853

This ship wrecked off the coast of Santa Barbara, hitting rocks off Anacapa Island, part of the Channel Islands. There was no loss of life, but the ship ultimately sank in shallow water. Recovery efforts were made immediately, and most of the treasure was recovered within a few weeks. In 1894 a second major salvage operation recovered as much of the metal parts of the ship as possible, possibly including the ship's bell, in a private collection today. No mention was made of any gold or gold coin, as it was generally thought that the gold was recovered on the initial recovery effort of 1853. But divers in modern times using modern equipment went at it again in the 1950s—1970s, recovering even more gold coins, probably from abandoned passenger belongings.

The first formal record of a fractional Cal gold coin from the Winfield Scott came in 1957. That coin now rests in the Smithsonian, discovered (and traced) in modern times by Totheroh, Bob Lande, and Ken Glickman. In 1967, a suction dredge was used on part of the site, recovering at least two gold nuggets, and an unknown number of coins. Skin Diver Magazine published an article about treasure hunting on the Winfield Scott by Dick Anderson in September, 1969. It enthralled Totheroh and many others. Later that year, it was reported that divers found and recorded other Cal fractional pieces, and the rush was on for more gold coin, which had worked its way deep into rocky crevices through gravity over time. Eventually, many US gold coins, private or territorial California gold coins, and fractional gold pieces were found. The site became a park in 1979, off-limits to treasure hunters.

Jack Totheroh authored a book on the subject published by the Ventura County Historical Society, entitled *Small Change; California Small Denomination Gold and the Wreck of the Winfield Scott* (2003). Totheroh's article discusses the wreck in detail, as well as the subsequent salvage efforts over the next century and more. He reported that numerous authors have claimed that more than 200 Cal gold pieces were recovered from the Winfield Scott, though only 57 were eventually specifically inventoried as known today. Undoubtedly, Totheroh tried to run down the many divers who searched the Winfield Scott, hoping to obtain their caches of Cal gold coins. According to his son, he never found any.

Rumors of up to 200 additional California fractional pieces found by the early divers abound in the Santa Barbara area. For more than twenty years (1970s—1990s), these rumors were traced and investigated by many collectors, but to no avail. If they ever existed, they have probably now been disbursed into coin collections.

After the "embargo" on the Winfield Scott site in 1979, treasure hunters were still at it. Anxious to put a "halt" to the illegal treasure salvage operations, a sting operation took place in 1984, as stated in *Small Change*. One of the early collectors related to me recently that treasure hunters regularly ignored the law. This gentleman (we'll call him "Mr. Smith") related to me a story about one of the more famous of the local Santa Barbara treasure hunters (I'll leave his name out as well). Mr. Smith had met the guys, who had said they were out fishing, and needed some help getting something ashore, and asked Smith if he could take a dingy out and meet them at the boat. Smith, an avid fisherman as are many residents of this coastal community, pestered them with questions about what they had caught. None of the answers made sense, so he dropped the subject. It wasn't until years later that he learned that the ship was anchored over part of the Winfield Scott site, and he was being used as a mule to get treasure on land and away from the ship.

A summary of the published 57 Cal gold coins from the Winfield Scott follows. None are holdered (certified by a grading service) with a special label:

Quarters: Octagonal: 5 found, all BG 101.

Round: 18 found. These are BG 204 (1), 205 (1), 206 (1), 209 (2), 217 (1), 222 (2), 223 (10).

Half Dollars: Octagonal: 3 found, BG 303 (3). It should be noted that the coin illustrated by Totheroh in "Small Change" is a BG 302, not 303, a much more common coin. This inconsistency is currently an unsolvable problem. The data was supplied to Totheroh by others.

Round: 7 found. BG 401 (1), 414 (1), 421 (1), 428 (1), 430 (3).

Dollars: Octagonal: 23 found. BG 514 (1), 519 (2), 525 (1), 526 (2), 530 (15), 531 (2).

Round: None recorded.

SS Central America, sank September 12, 1857

The SS Central America was and is the greatest treasure ship of the California Gold Rush to be salvaged. More than 500 gold ingots and 10,000 gold coins were recovered from an 8,000 foot deep grave in the Atlantic Ocean. The treasure was nearly home to New York on a lengthy voyage from San Francisco after a steamer trip from San Francisco to Panama, then transferred to a train across the isthmus, and loaded once again on a ship for New York from the Atlantic side, only to sink in a violent storm a couple of days from the intended destination. Salvaged in modern times by state-of-the-art technology, the treasure has now sold several times for an amount estimated at about \$210 million in aggregate. Wow!

The bulk of the treasure that included the main bullion storage areas has been brought to the surface. An untold millions of dollars in undiscovered treasure remains, partially in passenger coin and gold, according to Bob Evans, chief scientist for the project.

A small part of the recovered treasure was passenger change. Four California fractional gold pieces were recovered. All four are BG 111's. Evans told me recently that three of the coins came up in the same dredge bucket, and possibly the fourth. They came up with placer gold, a possible indication that they were in a leather "poke" of gold, usually held by passengers. The tiny fractional gold coins had been unseen by the cameras scanning the ocean floor. The recovery process involved vacuuming specific areas that were known to carry gold, as seen by the cameras. The vacuum placed the sludge of mud, sand, placer gold, coins, timber fragments, shells, and other items into one of two "dredge buckets". The contents of these buckets were carefully and tenderly hand separated, then the remaining material panned, leaving behind the heavy metal objects, mostly placer gold. Three of the four fractional gold coins came up in the same dredge bucket, though panned in separate pans, indicating they were together on the ocean floor. The fourth coin was possibly from the same or the adjacent dredge bucket. The three were encrusted with iron oxide, though not part of a conglomerate cemented by calcium carbonate or iron, as were many other gold coins. The fourth was heavily encrusted. The size of the coins presented great difficulty in the curation and removal of the iron oxide.

Evans reported that each of the pieces was from a later die state, because the bridge of the nose on the obverse was reworked. Bob Leonard stated that the SSCA BG 111's included two in die state 4. It is unknown what die state the other two are at this time. All four are gold labeled PCGS holdered pieces. At least two of the four are MS 66, and a third MS65. These four are among the most prized Cal fractional gold pieces in existence today.



This photo of the reverse of a BG 111 from the SSCA wreck is kindly provided by Bob Evans.

The SS Northerner

After publication of the various ship and coin stories above, one of the metal detectorists came forward with another ship that has produced fractional and gold coins in California. It is the Steamship Northerner, built in New York in 1847, came around the horn in 1850, and was later used by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. It wrecked January 6, 1860 off Centerville Beach, after striking a rock on Blunt's Reef. 108 were on board, and 38 died. The ship held passenger luggage and change, as well as "\$14,000 in Government funds.". It is estimated that about 100 gold coins have been recovered, but there is no specific accounting.

Abandon Ship!

Aside from the known wrecks of active ships, there were hundreds of ships abandoned in the California gold rush harbors of San Francisco, Humboldt Bay, Trinidad and Crescent City. Other receiving harbors on the American east coast or Hawaii may also have wrecks with California Gold Rush coins. While most of these were truly abandoned prior to sinking, a few "pokes" might have been lost. Got treasure?

Land Treasure - Historic Cornerstones

As this article was being written, a new kind of treasure surfaced—treasure on land! The Nye County Assistant Manager (Joni Eastley, Tonopah, Nevada) called about a discovery in the cornerstone of the Nye County Courthouse. Among a group of items found inside the cornerstone, entombed since June, 1905, is a Cal fractional gold token! This is an exceptionally exciting discovery, since it underlines the importance and significance of these gold coins and tokens through time. The coin was discovered in a metal box, along with various newspapers, documents, fraternal items, booklets about Tonopah, high grade silver ore samples, a Tonopah City Bakery brass token, 1893 Columbian Expo commemorative half dollar, and a small group of foreign coins, perhaps emblematic of the many foreign miners who migrated to the mines of central Nevada.

The Tonopah Court House Cal gold token in the cornerstone was made by Herman Brand in San Francisco about 1890. The token is in great company, with the same coin having been in two other important collections: California gold rush US Assay Office, San Francisco, assayer Augustus Humbert, whose collection sold in 1902, had one to go along with his many private California gold coins, arguably the most important collection of its kind at the time; the great Italian tenor Enrico Caruso (1873-1921) had one in his collection when it was sold in 1923, according to Mike Locke, Cal gold researcher.

Interestingly, there is a Cal gold token from Tonopah, also dated 1905. There are three or four pieces known, though none were in the cornerstone. Little is known of the source of this rare piece, and one wonders if it was perhaps a gold piece made especially for the celebration of the new court house. It does not resemble the die work of the Hart set coins, and is thus probably not made by Meyer & Co., according to Bill Hyder (see the article on the Hart set in this catalog).



This is the Cal gold token found in the cornerstone of the Tonopah Court House (1905).



This is the rare Tonopah Gold Coin of 1905.



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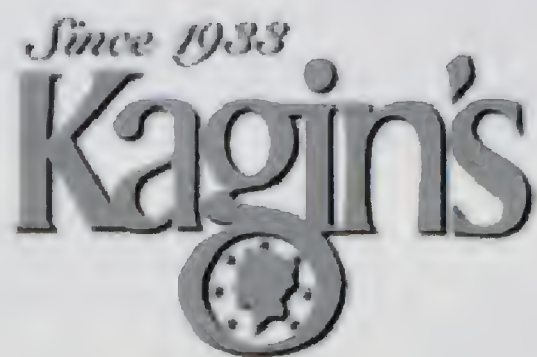
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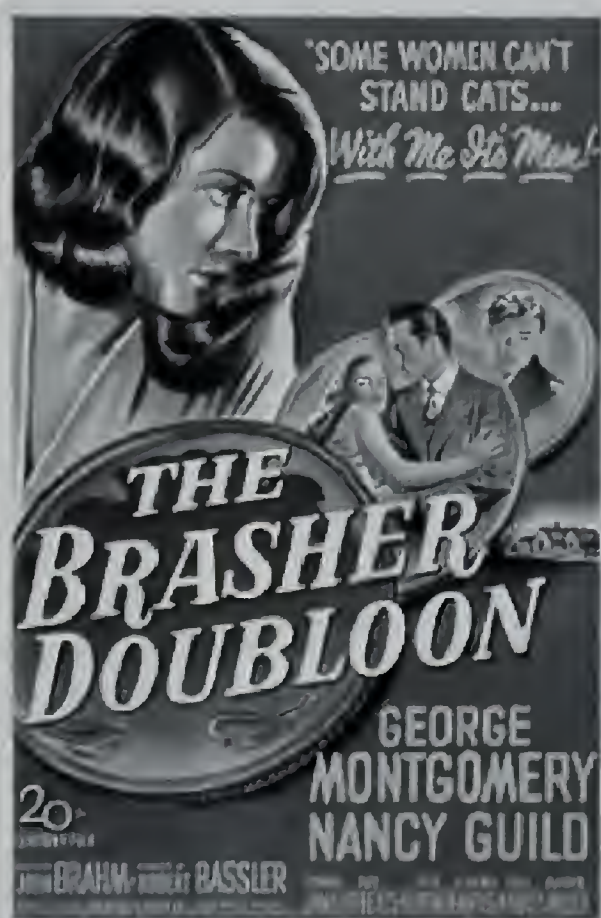
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MOVIE REVIEW

The Brasher Doubloon

Private detective Philip Marlowe (George Montgomery) is hired by a wealthy widow, Elizabeth Murdock (Florence Bates), to find a stolen coin, the infamous Brasher Doubloon.

Auction Results February—June 2013



Since the publication of the previous 'Brasher Bulletin' the auction scene for Pioneer gold has been very active. Reviewed on the following pages are the offerings from Heritage, Stacks/Bowers, Goldberg and Holabird-Kagin Americana. Ten different venues have taken place and as I'm sure, many of you know that the million dollar mark for a territorial gold coins has now been surpassed. Namely, Eric Newman's example of Augustus Humbert's personal \$10 coin which graded an astonishing MS-68! The million dollar barrier has also been surpassed, I believe eight times for both currency and coins so far in 2013. I hope that the listings which follow can be of interest to many of you for determining future bids or of general interest to see what is going to auction and what is hot and what is not.



Heritage Long Beach Signature Auction Feb. 7-8

Lot 4034-(1842-52) A. Bechtler Dollar, 27G. 21C. Plain Edge MS-62 NGC. K-24, R.3. \$6,756.25

Lot 4035- 1852 Humbert Fifty Dollar, 887 Thous. VF30 PCGS, K-11, R.5. \$25,850

Lot 4036- 1853 Assay Office Twenty Dollar, 900 Thous. AU55 PCGS. K-18. R.2. \$9,400

Lot 4037- 1852 Wass Molitor Ten Dol. Large Head, Wide Date AU50 NGC. K-4, R.5.
\$9,963.75

Lot 5010- (1831-34) C. Bechtler Dollar, 30G AU53 NCG. K-1, R.4. \$5,267.50

Lots 5011-5024—Cal Fractional Gold, 14 Lots. (\$587 to \$3,800)

Stacks Baltimore Auction March 13-15

Lot 4357-Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C Plain Edge. MS-62 (NGC). \$8,812.50

Lot 4358-Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C Plain Edge. AU-55 (NGC). \$2,937.50

Lot 4359-Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C Plain Edge. EF Details-Damage (PCGS). \$1,292.50

Lot 4360- United States Assay Office of Gold \$20 Gold. K-18. Rarity-2. 900 Thous. AU Details -Repaired (NGC). \$4,112.50

Lot 4361- Kellogg & Co. \$20 Gold. K-1. Rarity-5. VF Details-Smoothed (PCGS). \$2,820

Lot 4362-California \$20 Counter. K-6. Rarity-6. Bronze. EF-40 Uncertified. \$199.75

Lot 4363-1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$20 Gold Die Trial. K-12c. Rarity-6. Gilt Copper MS-61 (NGC). \$12,925

Lot 4364-Undated (Circa 1960) J.J.U. Conway & Co. \$5 Gold Bashlow Restrike. Silver. MS-66 (NGC). \$52.88

Heritage Coin Auction Dallas March 22-24

Lot 4495—(1837-42) Bechtler Quarter Eagle, 64G, 22C, MS62 NGC, K-11, R.6. \$30,550

Lot 4496—(1837-42) Bechtler Five Dollar, Colons Obverse AU55 PCGS, K21, R.7. \$67,562.50

Lot 4497- (1834-37) Bechtler Five Dollar, 20 Distant RUTHERF-Improperly Cleaned NGC Details. AU. K-19, High R.6. \$5,581.25

Lot 4498- Clark, Gruber & Co. Ten Dollar AU58 NGC. Kagan-7, R.4. \$16,450

Lot 4499- 1853 Assay Office Twenty Dollar, 900 Thous. MS63 PCGS K-18, R.2. \$18,212.50

Lots 4500 thru 4504- 5 lots of Cal. Fractional Gold (R3, R4 & R5) (\$940 to \$3,250)

Holabird-Kagin Auction Reno April 12-13

Due to the large number of Cal Fractionals sold please refer to your catalog or the Holabird Americana web site for pictures and prices realized.

Heritage Eric P. Newman Auction April 24-26 Chicago

Lot 4058— 1852 Humbert Ten Dollar MS68. CAC. Kagin-10, R.5. \$1,057,000 *****

Heritage Coin Auction Chicago April 24-27 (Platinum Session)

Lot 4642— 1837-42) C. Bechtler Five Dollar, 134G, With Star AU58 NGC K-20, R.4. \$11,899.23

Lot 4643— 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co. Ten Dollar AU55 NGC. K-3, R.5. \$30,550

Lot 4644— 1851 Humbert Fifty Dollar, Lettered Edge, 880 Thous. NGC XF. K-2, R.5. \$47,000

Lot 4645— 1851 Humbert Fifty Dollar, Reeded edge, 880 Thous. Improperly Cleaned—NGC Details. AU. K-5, Low R.5. \$42,593.75

Lot 4646— 1852 Assay Office Ten Dollar MS62 NGC. K-12a, R.4. \$17,625

Lot 4647— 1852 Assay Office Ten Dollar MS62 NGC. K-12a, R.4. \$18,800

Lot 4648— 1852 Assay Office Fifty Dollar, 900 Thous.—Altered Surfaces-PCGS Genuine. K-14, High R.5. \$18,212.50

Lot 4649— Oregon Exchange Co. Five Dollar Fair 2 PCGS CAC, K-1, R.5. \$17,625

Lot 4650— Kellogg & Humbert S.S. Central America Gold Ingot, CAGB-519. 23.29oz. \$129,250

Heritage Coin Auction Chicago April 24-27 (Signature Session)

Lot 6171— 1850 Baldwin Five Dollar PCGS Genuine, K-2, R.5. Did Not Sell

Lot 6172— (1837-42) C. Bechtler Dollar, N Reversed AU53 NGC, K-4, R.4. \$3,525

Lot 6173— (1837-42) C. Bechtler Dollar, N Reversed MS61 NGC, K-4, R.4. XF45 PCGS, K-23, High R.6. \$7,637.50

Lot 6174— (1837-42) C. Bechtler Five Dollar, RUTHERF: XF45 PCGS. K-23, High R.6. \$8,225

Lot 6175— (1837-42) C. Bechtler Five Dollar 20 Distant, RUTHERF-Improperly Cleaned-NGC Details. AU, K-19,m High R.6. \$5,728.12

Lot 6176— 1852/1 Humbert Ten Dollar—Rim Filed—NCS Details. Unc. K-8, R.4. \$7,050

Lot 6177— 1853 Assay Office Twenty Dollar, 900 Thous.—Improperly Cleaned— NGC Details. Unc. K-18, R.2. \$7,095.82

Lot 6178—1852 Kellogg & Co. Twenty Dollar-Obverse Graffiti-NGC Details. AU, K-1b, R.5. \$7,637.50

Lot 6179— 1849 Norris, Gregg, & Norris Five Dollar, Plain Edge VF35 NGC, K-2, R.5. \$7,637.50

Lot 6180— 1855 SSCA Relic Gold Medal "1855 Kellogg & Co. Fifty" Gem Proof PCGS \$6,462.50

Lot 6181— 1855 SSCA Relic Gold Medal "1855 Kellogg & Co. Fifty" Gem Uncirculated PCGS \$4,700

Lots 6182-6201—Cal Fractional Gold (20 Lots / \$705 to \$5,875)

Stacks May 2013 ANA Auction / New Orleans

Lot 1204— 1830 Templeton Reid \$2.50 Gold. K-1. Rarity-6 AU-58 (PCGS). Secure Holder. \$329,000

Lot 1205— Undated (1831-1834) Christopher Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-1, Rarity-4. 30.G, Star. MS-61 (PCGS) \$16,450

Lot 1206—Undated (1831-1834) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-15. Rarity-7. 150.G, 20 CARATS. AU-55 (PCGS). \$64,625

Lot 1207— Undated (1831-1834) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-17. Rarity-5. RUTHERFORD, 140.G, 20 CARATS, Plain Edge, MS-61 (PCGS). \$22,325

Lot 1208— Undated (1831-1834) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-17. Rarity-5. RUTHERFORD, 140.G, 20 CARATS, Plain Edge, AU-53 (PCGS). \$11,162.50

Lot 1209— Undated (1831-1834) Christopher Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-4. Rarity-4. 28.G, N Reversed. VF Details-Damage or Tooling (PCGS). \$1,116.25

Lot 1210—Undated (1837-42) Christopher Bechtler \$2.50 Gold. K-15. Rarity-6. 70.G, 20 CARATS, AU Details-Graffiti (PCGS). \$4,993.75

Lot 1211—Undated (1837-42) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-20. Rarity-4. 134.G.; 21 CARATS, With Star, AU-55 (PCGS). \$15,335.75

Lot 1212— Undated (1837-42) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-23. Rarity-6+. RUTHERF, 128.G, 22 CARATS. AU-55 (PCGS). \$21,737.50

Lot 1213— Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C, Plain Edge. AU-55 (PCGS). \$3,818.75

Lot 1214— Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G.; 21.C., Plain Edge. AU Details-Cleaning (PCGS) \$1,645

Lot 1215— 1849 Moffat & Co.. \$10 Gold. K-6a. Rarity-5+. EF Details-Tooled (PCGS). \$4,700

Lot 1216— 1850 Moffat & Co. \$5 Gold. K-7. R-4. AU Details-Damage or Tooling (PCGS) \$2,585

Lot 1217— 1850 Moffat & Co. \$5 Gold. K-7a. Rarity-4. Large Eagle. AU-50 (PCGS) \$5,640

Lot 1218— 1852 Moffat & Co. \$10 Gold. K-9. R-6. Wide Date. AU Det.-Cleaning (PCGS) \$28,200

Lot 1219— 1851 Augustus Humbert \$50 Gold. Reeded Edge. K-6. Rarity-4, 887 THOUS.; Target Reverse. EF Details-Damage or Tooling (PCGS). \$14,100

Lot 1220— 1852 Augustus Humbert \$50 Gold. Reeded Edge. K-11. Rarity-5. 887 THOUS.; Target Reverse. Genuine —Code 98. Damage (PCGS). \$14,100

- Lot 1221-1852 United States Assay Office of Gold \$50 Gold. K-13. Rarity-5., 887 THOUS. AU-53 (PCGS). \$58,750
- Lot 1223-1853 United States Assay Office of Gold—Moffat \$20 Gold. K-19. Rarity-5+. AU Details-Scratch (PCGS). \$16,450
- Lot 1224- 1849 Massachusetts and California Company \$5 Gold Die Trial. K-4a. Rarity-7+., Copper. AU-55 BN (NGC) \$12,925
- Lot 1225- 1850 Baldwin & Co. \$5 Gold. K-2. Rarity-5. AU Details-Tooled (PCGS). \$11,162.50
- Lot 1226-1850 Mormon \$5 Gold. Rarity-5+. AU-53 (PCGS). \$35,250
- Lot 1227- 1850 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$2.50 Gold. K-1. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS). \$12,925
- Lot 1228- 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$5 Gold. K-2. Rarity-4. AU Details-Cleaning (PCGS). \$5,875
- Lot 1229- 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$10 Gold. K-3. Rarity-5. AU-53 (PCGS). \$30,550
- Lot 1230- 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$2.50 Gold. K-5a. R-7. AU Det.-Cleaning (PCGS). \$4,700
- Lot 1231- 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$10 Gold. K-7. R-4. EF Details-Cleaning (PCGS) \$4,993.75
- Lot 1232- 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. \$20 Gold Die Trial. K-12c. Rarity-6. Copper. EF Details-Rim Damage (PCGS). \$2,585
- Lot 1233- 1851 San Francisco State of California \$10 Die Trial. K-3a. Rarity-7. Copper. MS-64 BN (PCGS). \$17,625
- Lots 1234-1242—Cal Fractional Gold. 9 Lots. (\$332-\$646)

Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Auction June 2-4

- Lot 2060- August Bechtler, 1 DOLLAR CAROLINA, 27 Gr. 21 Carats PCGS Genuine AU Details. \$1,800
- Lot 2061- Moffat & Co. (San Francisco) \$5 Gold. NGC AU-55. \$6,250
- Lot 2062- U.S. Assay Office \$50 'Slug', 887 THOUS. Reeded Edge. PCGS EF-40. \$34,000
- Lot 2063- Wass, Molitor & Co. (San Francisco) \$50 Gold PCGS Genuine. Our grade is Sharpness of an XF. \$21,500
- This sale also included a number of re-strikes not listed here.
- Lots 2068-2070—Three lots of Cal Fractional Gold. (\$420-\$1,300)
- Lot 2071- Complete Type Set of Cal Fractional Gold 1852-1882. Lucite holder 12 pieces EF to AU. \$7,500

Heritage Long Beach Signature Auction June 5-9

- Lot 4921-(1837-42) C. Bechtler Five Dollar, 134G, With Star MS61 NGC. K-20, R.4. \$18,801.17
- Lot 5966-(1842-52) A. Bechtler Dollar, 27G. 21C., Plain Edge-Reverse Damage-NGC Details. Unc. K-24, R.3. \$2,115

Lot 5967-1853 Assay Office Twenty Dollar, 900 Thous.-Filed Rims-PCGS Genuine. Unc. Details. K-18, R.2. Did Not Sell

Lots 5968-5980— Cal Fractional Gold, 13 Pieces. (\$881 to \$2,800)

Stacks Baltimore Auction June 20-21

Lot 2350-Undated (1837-1842) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-20. Rarity-4. 134.G., 21 CARATE, With Star. AU-55 (PCGS) Sale Pending

Lot 2351-Undated (1837-1842) Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold. K-20. Rarity-4. 134.G., 21 CARATS, With Star. AU-53 (PCGS) Sale Pending

Lot 2351-Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C., Plain Edge. MS-62 (NGC) Sale Pending

Lot 2353— Undated (1842-1852) August Bechtler \$1 Gold. K-24. Rarity-3. 27.G., 21.C., Plain Edge. AU Details-Repaired (PCGS). Sale Pending

Lot 2354-1849 Moffat & Co. \$5 Gold. K-4. Rarity-5. VF Details-Damage (PCGS). Sale Pending

Lot 2355-1852 California \$20 center. K-6, Rarity-6 Bronze. EF-40 (Uncertified). Sale Pending

Lot 2356-1852 August Humbert \$10 Gold. K-10. Rarity-5. AU Details-Improperly Cleaned (NGC) Sale Pending

Lot 2357— 1853 United States Assay Office of Gold \$20 Gold. K-18. Rarity-2. 900 THOUS. AU-55 (PCGS). Sale Pending

Lot 2358-1853 United States Assay Office of Gold \$20 Gold. K-18. Rarity-2. 900 THOUS. AU-50 (ANACS) OH. Sale Pending

Lot 2359-1850 Baldwin & Co. \$5 Gold. K-2. R-5. VF Details-Surface Damage (PCGS) Sale Pending

Lot 2360-1855 Wass, Molitor & Co. \$10 Gold. K-6. Rarity-7. Au-50 (PCGS) SSCA. Sale Pending

Lot 2361-1854 Kellogg & Co. \$20 Gold. K-1. Rarity-5. Small Arrows. AU Details-Improperly Cleaned (NGC) Sale Pending

Summer 2013 Auction

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2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Join us Saturday, August 17th at ANA's World's Fair of Money in Rosemont,
Illinois for the SPPN annual meeting.

This year's meeting will feature Paul Franklin.

We are happy to host Mr. Franklin as he discusses the early assayers of San
Francisco and Nevada and presents exciting content from his most recent book,

Anatomy of an Ingot.

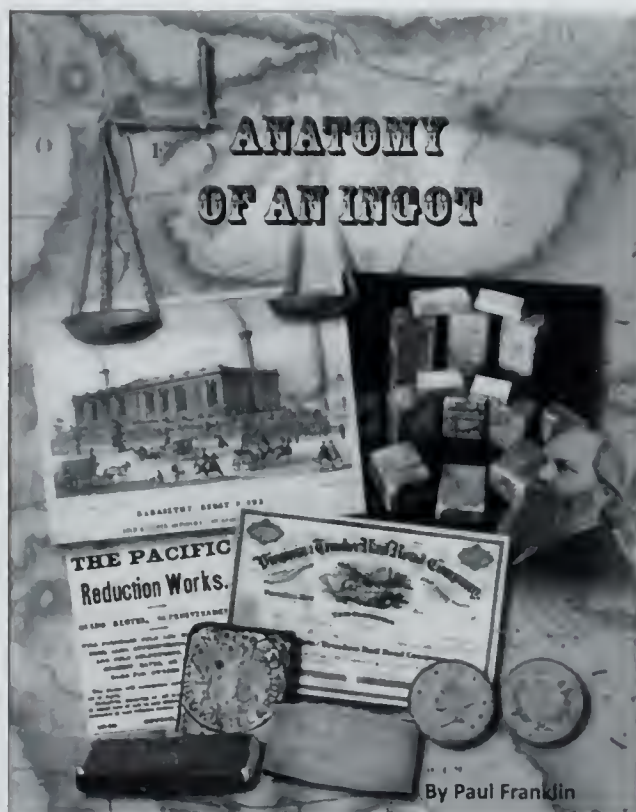
As an added bonus, Paul will be available after the meeting at Kagin's booths
412/414 to sign copies of Anatomy of an Ingot and Karl Moulton will be there to
sign copies of his new book,

John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard".

We look forward to seeing you Saturday, August 17th at 11am in room 11 of the
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

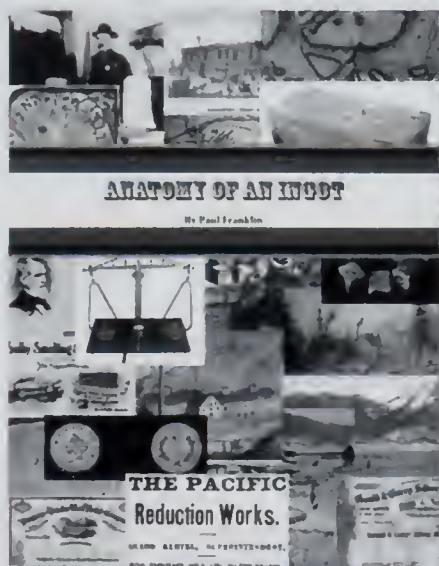
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Book Review "Anatomy Of An Ingot"

Paul Franklin sent me a copy of his new book, "Anatomy of An Ingot" recently for a brief review as follows. Additionally, I had a opportunity to sit down with Paul at the recent Long Beach Expo and discuss in detail this fine book. When I first heard about his book and discovered that the subject matter was about a single silver ingot, I wondered just how much could be written on the item. First of all, the book is not a small book, it contains 251 pages in 8 1/2 x 11 format and is published on high quality glossy stock in full color.

The ingot which is the subject matter is silver and weighs in at 4.97 troy ounces with a stamped value of \$6.42. It was sold by Stacks on Oct. 16, 2007 as part of the John J. Ford collection. Paul's fascination centers around the three assayers who's names appear on the ingot, Mathey, Kustel, and Riotte. The book is essentially broken into three parts, each delving into the three aforementioned assayers. Their professional careers have been eloquently researched in great detail and timelines associated with each and their involvement with the ingot and how their lives came together is really brought to life.

Surprisingly the ingot itself was manufactured at the assay office in New York City in 1881 and it is the only ingot known to display these three assayers who each had very different careers. After reading Paul's book one will develop a unique understanding of a little known portion of history beginning in the American west and trans versing the country all the way back east.

The book is profusely illustrated with many photos and illustrations of which many have never been brought together or published before. In summary, you are not reading about a simple silver ingot but its history and the lives of the assayers who came together in the latter half of the 19th century and created a piece of history. I found Paul's book to be a very interesting and different book with a unusual aspect on history.

Doug Nyholm

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- * Agoston Haraszthy, first assayer of the San Francisco Mint and father of the California wine industry
- * Samuel Heintzelman, Arizona pioneer, miner and Civil War Major General
- * Samuel Butterworth, superintendent of the New York Assay Office and president of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine in San Jose
- * Samuel Colt of the Colt Arms Co.
- * J. Ross Browne, western chronicler, explorer and secret agent for the Treasury department
- * Almarin B. Paul, Mining Entrepreneur in California and the Comstock
- * William Sharon, Banker to the Comstock
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National Token Show and Auction

August 30, 31, 2013. Atlantis Hotel Casino & Resort. Reno, Nevada

The annual NTCA (National Token Collectors Association) is holding its show and auction in Reno. Hosted by Fred Holabird, the event has a vividly exciting feel and promises to be very different.

More than 50 token and medal dealers from around the country will be participating in the show bourse. These include many of the most prominent names in the field. Attending dealers include John Heleva of Cal National Coin, one of the largest dealers in Americana; Larry Ellman, one of the largest medal dealers in America; Ron Lerch, western token expert; Holabird-Kagin, the largest token selling company in America; CT Rodgers, one of America's leading casino chip dealers; Peter Spooner, author of the Arizona token book; Mike Patton, the major dealer of Washington and Oregon pieces; Duane Feisel, author of the California Saloon Token book will be among those present. Dealers are coming from Maine, South Carolina, Utah, Nebraska, Oklahoma, New Mexico North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington and other states.

There will be a number of important public displays. Nationally known collector Alan Weinberg is displaying an incredible exhibit of "The Tokens Dreams Are Made Of", two show cases with the top twenty of the best and finest of American tokens. A separate display of the two different Virgil Earp tokens will also be shown publicly for the first time. These two historic tokens mark the "gunfighter" era, and are of keen interest to collectors.

Complete sets of Carson City, Virginia City and Tahoe tokens will be on display for the first time. No complete collections have ever been assembled, let alone shown publicly until now.

Additionally, show attendee are encouraged to bring their favorite (and rare) tokens for a "token shootout" where each participant brings a token and why they think it is important. NTCA members and show attendees will vote on several categories of these tokens, including rarity, history and other factors.

The auction features about 900 lots of rare American tokens, worth well over \$150,000. Included in this is a rare gold Alaska 2" medallion, rare Alaska, Arizona and California collections, the Clint Maish Nevada collection, and others. Of special interest is the Mel Reiter Canadian milk token collection.



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The Cayuga Joint Stock Company of 1849 by W.A. Ogden: Epilogue with a Biographical Profile of Company Member, Dr. O.D. Munson.

by Dan Owens

In late December of 1848 or early January of 1849, the California Gold fever struck the residence of Dr. Oscar D. Munson, a dentist from Auburn, Cayuga County, New York. Poring over the newsprint that told of the great wealth that lay beyond the far horizon, beads of sweat began to appear on his brow. Munson closed his eyes and imagined himself standing in the shallows of a cool river while he carefully pulled his handkerchief from his shirt pocket and slowly wiped the sweat from his forehead. Looking down into the water, he saw the glint of gold tucked safely beneath a bed of gravel. Seeking to cure his malady, Munson gladly forked over \$500 and secured a position with the Cayuga Joint Stock Company. Also bound for the far away land of El Dorado were fellow afflicted members and future California coiners and/or assayers, John G. Kellogg, a merchant; J.H. Stearns, a hardware dealer; Werthington S. Lyon, a merchant; Andrew J. Haight, a jeweler; and Hiram T. Graves a nursery man; all from Auburn. The only assayer in the association at the time of its formation outside of Haight was Chauncey A. Markham of Onondaga County. Eventually 79 men participated in the venture.

The Company gathered in the dining room of the Western Hotel in New York and W.W. Sheppard, a lawyer from Auburn, was elected President. He wrote up and presented the articles of the association. The adventurers would cast their fate to the wind onboard the sailing vessel *Belvidere*.

Cayuga Joint Stock Company member W. A. Ogden would later write that the barque *Belvidere* was a Baltimore Clipper of 500 tons, that **had long been pronounced so un-seaworthy that no responsible insurance company would insure a life that sailed with her [emphasis added]**. But that did not matter, whatever shortfalls the ship had, could be made up for in the sheer determination of her gold seekers.¹ Captain Barney, a farmer who was once a whaler, would take the wheel of the *Belvidere* assisted by first and second mates the Gardners, Jared and Coffin, both farmers and former whalers.



Ogden wrote, "Our cargo consisted of mining tools, provisions for three years, and quite a large amount of lumber for building purposes and merchandise. The disbursements and receipts of the company, as indicated by my memoranda, were as follows: The ship and supplies cost \$14,716.71; drugs and medicines, \$500; goods & c., \$24,235; commission \$1,710.63; amount paid in by members, \$39,000, showing 78 men. There were in fact 79, but Capt. Barney did not pay as he was allowed \$500 for services. We received for passengers \$250..."

Five members, including Chauncey Markham, remained behind to take the quicker Isthmus route to California and scout out the land of gold for the remaining Company. Most of the men on board the *Belvidere* were complete strangers with one common goal, get to California and cure what ailed them.

Ogden noted, on the 28th of February, 1849: "Our passage to quarantine was pleasant. Coming to anchor about 3 p.m., having to wait for a favorable wind that would take us, with five or six other vessels, out to sea. March 2nd, the wind, being all that could be

desired, a pilot came on board, the anchor was raised and we were at last started on our long voyage to the Pacific coast."

However, a dose of reality quickly set in and the gold seekers quickly faced two new maladies, both sea and home sickness.

Ogden continued his account with the following passages: "The wind was blowing hard from the north east, and our sail from quarantine to Sandy Hook was a rapid one. Here the pilot left us, departing amid the hearty cheers given by those on board. But I doubt if, six hours after his departure, a cheer could have been raised on our ship. We were beating into the wind, and the vessel with its heavy cargo of lumber, rolled fearfully. A large number of the [personal sea] chests between deck, broke from their lashings, and were sliding and tumbling in all directions. The confusion and noise was indescribable. When we left the Hook all were on deck, feeling happy and jolly, each asking the other who would be the first to succumb to sea sickness. It came quickly to all except two of us.

"On each side of the vessel next to the bulwark, were lashed some heavy spars, which were made a convenient place for sitting, being just high enough so that a person could put his head on top and look into the sea. In a very few hours seventy odd men were seated in a row on the leeward side of the vessel, looking into the sea, and acting as near alike, and in concert, as possible. As night approached, one and another of the poor fellows made their way to their staterooms, some trying to joke and smile, others mad to think they were sick, and many in tears. One gentleman from Auburn exclaimed in his misery, 'Oh! why did I leave home? I who had so good a home!'

"We 'spoke' [with] many ships on our way, receiving from all a hearty recognition. On the 30th of March, we sighted the Cape de Verde Islands, and though we did not leave the ship, the sight of land was very pleasant. We had the long wished for opportunity of sending, through a fishing party, near one of the islands, our first letters to the friends at home. The 8th of April we struck the trade winds. Our Sundays were passed quietly, a part of the time occupied with religious services...

"On the 14th of May, we had the heaviest gale of the voyage, - many seas breaking over the vessel. I was awakened about midnight by a lurch of the ship, and by the voice of the third mate telling me, that if I wished to see a regular 'buster' to turn out, and come on deck. I could not stay there very long, as every sea made a clean sweep over the ship...

"On the 1st of June, we had our first snow storm. It was cold, unpleasant and dispiriting. About eighty of us collected together in the hold of the old ship without a fire, and hardly sufficient light to read by. When the cold became too intense we sought the warmth of our berths. For about a month we made no progress. Time was passed in playing cards, chess, reading and arguing on the articles in the constitution

of the Company. We were now in latitude 57°, longitude 75°, and June 21st was our shortest day, being only five and a half hours long, the sun rising above the horizon only 8 1/2°.

On June 23rd, we could congratulate ourselves on having at last rounded Cape Horn, and were now running from four to six knots an hour.

“We celebrated the 74th anniversary of America's independence by firing guns and pistols. The Stars and Stripes were fastened to our masts, and flying in the wind. The order of exercises for the day were, 1st prayer by E.A. Mills; 2nd singing by the whole company; 3rd. music by the band; 4th, reading of the Declaration of Independence; 5th, oration by H. C. Hall; 6th, singing by the whole company; 7th, music by the band. Last but not least, dinner, which comprised all the luxuries the ship afforded.

“It will be noticed that we had ‘music by the band’. It consisted of members of the company, and was something to be proud of... We were much indebted to them, for in that long wearisome voyage their music contributed in various ways to our happiness. When we reached San Francisco, our band played in the streets, and drew a large and enthusiastic audience. We were informed that it was the first band ever heard in the streets of San Francisco. It was frequently employed on festive and public occasions, and received from \$50 to \$75 for its services.

“On the 29th of July, we sailed into the harbor of Callao [Peru], and for the first time in five months set foot on land. The ground seemed to rock to and fro, rendering it impossible for us to walk without staggering... The markets were most tempting for a hungry sailor, well paved, with fountains, and delicious fruits...

“One morning, another party and myself started to walk to Lima, a city six miles distant... Within two miles of the city, the roads were bordered by side-paths, beautiful gardens, with seats for weary travelers, and fruit trees. We passed unnoticed by the sentinels at the gate, and entering Lima, found it very much like Callao... The cathedrals were very beautiful, decorated in the richest manner with gold and silver. We went from the cathedral to the president's palace (a remarkably fine building), where we saw the president, who greeted us very politely. We visited the cotton factories, markets, museums, and Peruvian Library, which contained at that time more than 20,000 volumes... We could not form a judgment of the ladies, for all that we could see of their features was one eye, the rest of the face being closely veiled. We returned to Callao the next day.

“On August 7th, we lifted anchor, and bade adieu to old Peru, starting again with a good wind for California. After our little dissipation in Peru we had no money left; we were obliged to sell some of the extra spars, which in order to avoid duty, were lowered over the sides of the ship during the night, being towed away by the ships which brought them. We did not feel our poverty, for were we not bound for the land of gold? Our time was now occupied in making tents, gold-washers, etc., in anticipation of our new life. We were troubled now with sickness, as a result of our holiday on land, and one of our

number, Walter W. Tuttle [a carpenter from Auburn], died very unexpectedly to us all. It was our first death, and experience of burial at sea. He was a true and manly fellow, esteemed by us all, and his death cast a heavy gloom over the ship. There was a singular incident connected with that sad event. The day before his death a very handsome black bird, about the size of a dove, came and lit on the combings of the main hatch within a few feet of where poor Tuttle was lying, and remained there all the afternoon, permitting itself to be handled by any one who came along. Just before dark it rose, and making a circle around the ship, lit on the fore-top gallant yard, where it remained until a few minutes after he died, where it flew away, and was not seen again...

"The time seemed very long now, and we waited impatiently for the end of our journey. We were delayed three weeks by calms and head winds, but on the 8th day of October, after being over seven months, or 212 days, on shipboard, we entered with loud cheers the Golden Gate of California.

"When we arrived in San Francisco, the company was out of funds, and we all went ashore seeking work, which each man found for himself, turning the avails into the common fund. The day laborers received \$1 per hour. Some were quick and successful others not so; a few indicating that labor was not the first thing they wished for, but they were most willing to assist in spending money. Our tents were placed on the shore, men being left to care for them, and attend to the cooking. We worked in this way several weeks, coming to our meals at the camp, until funds had accumulated. Then a mining party, consisting of nineteen men, was organized to go to Stockton, on the way to the Mariposa mines.² We took the long boat which could carry ten tons of freight, filled her with tents, camp equipages and provisions sufficient for a winter's supply, and started in a whale boat towing the long boat. The voyage was very tedious, as much of the time we were compelled to use the oars. A few nights we were unable to land, and had to remain in our boats, resting as best we could. On arriving in Stockton we hired a train of mules to pack us in to the mines, paying freight at the rate of fifty cents per pound, everything being carefully weighed. The prices at that time seemed immense, to us, not being used to it.

"Our march to the Mariposa mines was a long one. We were detained for a day or two by the floods on the Stanislaus River. Here we had great fun catching salmon, which were plainly to be seen going up the river by the thousands. We shot them and killed them with clubs. Those speared by the Indians, weighing ten or twelve pounds, were sold for ten cents a piece. Here I found my first gold, picking it out of the rocks with my jack-knife...

"On our arrival at the Mariposa mines, we encamped on a side hill, dividing into squads of four, each squad looking out for itself, and finding its own work. G.L. Mead, of Splinter Hill, near Moravia, was the hunter of the party, being very successful in supplying us with venison, etc. Every thing in the eatable line being very expensive, costing one dollar per pound, excepting venison, which cost 25 cents, and Spanish beef which was 50 cents. At one time we weighed out in gold \$125 for 100 lbs. of flour. Potatoes were not to be had at any price.

"We remained in the mines, being fairly successful, until spring [1850]. We then broke camp, hiring mules of the Ithaca company to pack our baggage and provisions down to the junction of the San Joaquin and Mercede (sic) rivers, where we expected our boats to meet us."

I believe that this particular Ithaca Company had a direct connection to the mining company whose name was found on a \$10 pattern piece struck over an 1849 U.S. Large Cent. On page 79, of Dr. Don Kagin's standard reference work on pioneer gold coinage, he cited the autobiography of W.B. Taylor of the Ithaca Mining Company or the Ithaca and California Mining Company. Taylor's work ended with a few members of the Company on the banks of the Merced River. Transporting goods for other miners may have been how they ended up making their living after their coining press had been sold in San Francisco months before they had arrived there.

Ogden continued: "Finding on our arrival at the mouth of the Mercede, that our boats were not there, one of our party swam the river so as to reach the ferry, which was on the San Joaquin. The ferry boat carried us across the Mercede, where we waited for our boats. But as they did not come, our party divided, part resolving to wait, the rest buying two horses and going to San Francisco, by the way of Pachaker's Pass and San Jose... We had to camp in the rain, with only our oil blankets to protect us. One part of the way we had to march through water eighteen or twenty inches in depth. It was a most disagreeable trip.

"On our arrival at San Francisco, we found a sorry looking company of men. Many were sick with the fever, some had died, quite a number had left the company, and had gone into business for themselves, among whom were Captain Barney and the Gardners. **Only part of the company went to the mines, the**

balance remained in San Francisco through the winter, and labored in various ways; some at their trades, some in the mint, some as day laborers."

There can be no doubt that Ogden was referring to John Glover Kellogg among others, who went to work for Moffat & Co.'s mint and would become a partner in several other coining and or assaying firms including Kellogg & Richter, Kellogg & Humbert, and Kellogg, Hewston & Co.

Ogden continued: "They had come from all professions and conditions of life, and they could do everything from preaching to horse stealing. Let no one draw unfavorable conclusions from this statement. The members of the company were (with a few exceptions) true, noble, wholesouled fellows-but it would be a marvel if there should - not be found some black sheep in a flock of seventy-nine which had been brought together as we were.

"Three buildings were erected by the company, with material which we carried with us. We lost one, as we shall find through defect of title. One of the others we rented as a hotel. Those who were in the city lived in the other and made it [their] headquarters. As there was much sickness, one part of this building was used as a hospital for the sick members. Mr. John Choate [a tinsmith from Auburn] had charge of it. **It soon became evident that, as a 'Company' we were not a success, and the feeling was unanimous that we must disband.** This was delayed until the annual meeting, when the votes stood decidedly in favor of it. Parties were selected to dispose of, and see to the property as far as possible, dividing the same equally. J.H. Stearns, one or two others and myself were selected to attend to the business.³ We sold all that was valuable belonging to the ship, stripping her of her rigging, and disposing of her at auction for \$2,500. It was hauled up in the mud, and made a storehouse of. Afterward, I have been told, she was cut down to low water mark, filled in with sand, and became the foundation of a large brick store.

Before the ship sailed from New York we invested some \$15,000 or \$20,000 in lumber, spars, beef, pork, boots and shoes, iron and molasses, which were taken with the expectation that large profits would be made when sold in California. Marvelous stories were told and published of the fearful prices everything brought in the land of gold. We did do well on some of our purchases, but our anticipations of making a fortune on our investments were not realized. Part of the lumber was used in a building which was erected on a lot, of which we were subsequently dispossessed, thus proving a dead loss to the Company. It will be remembered that we paid for the ship and its supplies about \$15,000, hence in selling the ship for \$2,500, another serious loss was sustained.

"In view of these facts it will not be wondered at that the 'Cayuga Joint Stock Company' was not a financial success. Each member paid in \$500 when the company was formed. Two dividends were made in the spring of 1850, one of \$208 and one of \$70.92. We had then some real estate unsold. This was placed in charge of J.H. Stearns to sell...

"As soon as the Company dissolved, new combinations were formed, the parties leaving immediately for the mines. Some remained in the city, and obtained employment in the mint. Our party consisting of Timothy L. Barker of Auburn, Volney Hughitt (sic) and John T. Rundal of Genoa, and myself, located on [the] Bear River, and remained there several months. Then we moved down to a place on the Big Auburn ravine, called Ophir, three miles from Auburn.⁴

"While we were on [the] Bear River we used the 'cradle', which has recently been described in the Century, but it was slow, laborious work. 'It is the rudest and simplest of all machines employed for the separation of gold from gravel, through which it is distributed...' For a day's labor each man was ex-

pected to wash one hundred pails of dirt, not regarding it as paying unless it yielded six to eight cents per pail... This ravine had been and was a sort of camping ground for those who had been during the summer or dry season, working on the rivers, and who, during the winter or wet season, came back to the ravine, where there was plenty of water on the surface. While here, we adopted the 'Long Tom' by which we could accomplish much more than by the 'cradles', it paying us to go over the same ground we had worked with the cradles...

"When we first came to Ophir we lived in tents, cooking outside by a stump or log. Becoming dissatisfied we finally bought a log cabin, with a canvas roof and Missouri chimney. It was situated in a small valley surrounded by low lying hills, and near a cold spring of never failing water. The low, wide-branching oak trees scattered here and there, with the green lawn, marred by no underbrush, reminded us strongly of the luxuriant apple orchards of the states. It was truly a pleasant place to live in, and here we were visited by a great many Cayuga county people, many of whom remained in our camp until they could obtain a good position. The town of Ophir was but a short distance from us. It was like many other California towns, small, with two hotels, two gambling houses, plenty of supply stores, and some residences. Gambling was as public as the selling of goods and groceries. As all stores sold whiskey, they became a general rendezvous for the gamblers, who did nothing but drink, gamble and occasionally fight. Miners they studiously avoided...

"I remained in the big Auburn ravine until my return home in 1853... Little do people realize, in these days, when one week of travel will carry them to the 'Golden Gate', how, but a few years ago, there was no great system of railways with all their facilities for ease and comfort, but that weeks, even months must elapse before they reached the promised land.

"It is now thirty-four years since the *Belvidere* sailed out of the harbor of New York with her hopeful adventurers... We were boys then, with our hearts filled with bright dreams and golden hopes. But now gray hairs and failing sight, and many other signs remind us that youth has long since passed..."

Epilogue:

The *Sacramento Union* on October 14th, 1869, recorded the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the arrival of the bark *Belvidere*. Among those gold seekers onboard the vessel and still living in San Francisco were H.T. Graves, Dr. O.D. Munson, J.G. Kellogg, W.S. Lyons, A.J. Haight and T.L. Barker. On October 12th, 1899, Cayuga Joint Stock Company member Timothy L. Barker hosted a fifty year reunion for the surviving members of the Company at his brightly lit mansion in Oakland, California. Marking their disembarkment from the *Belvidere* many decades ago, six of the ten remaining survivors celebrated under a huge American flag and feasted at a table filled with the best cuisine the Bay Area had to offer.

The attending members were as follows: William M. Eddy, a banker currently residing in Santa Barbara; Werthing S. Lyon, who for the past forty years had worked with assayers Kellogg & Humbert and Kellogg, Hewston & Co. and had been a foreman in the melting department of the Selby Lead and Smelting Works; Andrew J. Haight of Alameda, formerly with Moffat & Company, Kellogg & Richter, and afterward an assayer with Kellogg, Hewston & Co., predecessors of the present Selby Smelting Works; Dr. William A. Grover, a retired physician and the oldest of the resident sextet, and Hiram T. Graves, formerly with Moffat & Co., later in the United States Assayer's Office, San Francisco Mint, and at present secretary of the Mount Olive Cemetery Association. The gentlemen were accompanied by their wives.

The other four survivors, who had since returned to Cayuga County, New York, and from whom greetings were received, were Dr. Oscar D. Munson, dentist; Weston A. Ogden, retired merchant; John Choate, hardware dealer, and George Richardson, furniture dealer. Music was provided and the evening closed with the company singing 'Auld Lang Syne', and a sentiment to the next anniversary. Each guest was pre-

sented with a souvenir in the way of a miniature pick, shovel and pan, and each lady received a little bucket of so-called nuggets.⁵

Biographical Profile of Dr. O.D. Munson:

Cayuga Joint Stock Company member Oscar Demetrius Munson was born in Vermont in 1812. A dentist by profession, he can be found listed in the 1852 California Census living in Placer County. His name appeared in an 1853 Postal Guide as being a postmaster at Ophirville, Placer County. Apparently he tried to make ends meet by relying on his old profession, for he advertised his dental services at 68 J Street in the *Sacramento Union* in May and June of 1853.

However, this did not last long and the gold bug bit him again, and he ended up working his way up the ladder at the San Francisco Branch Mint from its beginnings in April of 1854. In 1861, he grew tired and frustrated with the working conditions at the Branch Mint and in particular dealing with assayer Conrad Wiegand. He resigned as assistant assayer on July 30th. During the same time period, the reign of coiners Clark, Gruber & Co. was glacially creeping to an end in Denver. Thus Munson turned his attention towards the East and made his move to the mile high mint via a steamer back to New York.

The Colorado *Tri-Weekly Miner's Register* ran the following notice on October 24th, 1862: Dr. O.D. Munson, who was for over seven years connected with the assaying department in the California Mint, and is now appointed United States assayer for the Denver Branch Mint, has taken charge of the assaying and melting departments of the mint of Clark, Gruber & Co., and is now ready to melt, assay and put into bars whatever gold may be offered until the U.S. Mint goes into operation... On November 20th, 1862, the *Rocky Mountain Weekly News* carried an interesting passage detailing Munson's handiwork: A gentleman who left here two or three days ago for the States, carried with him, in a carpet sack, one hundred and forty-five pounds of gold dust. The most of it was in retort, but a part in ingots of Dr. Munson's assay. Each ingot was about two and a half by four inches, and an inch and a half thick, stamped with the weight, fineness and value. Very pretty little gold bricks you may believe.

In 1869, Munson was nominated for a position back with the San Francisco Branch Mint. He remained there until the late 1880's when he returned back East. Oscar D. Munson passed away on May 12th, 1902 in Auburn, New York.⁶



I would like to thank Robert Leonard for reviewing this paper.

Footnotes:

1. Cayuga Joint Stock Company Of 1849. A Paper Read Before The Cayuga County Historical Society April 25th, 1883, by W.A. Ogden. He was a farmer and speculator from Genoa, New York.
2. Mariposa Mines: Timothy L. Barker, a member of the Cayuga Joint Stock Company passed away in Oakland in 1911. His obituary stated that he went to work in the winter of 1849 in Mariposa County at the Agua Frio mining claims.
3. J.H.Stearns, a hardware dealer from Auburn N.Y., went on to work for Kellogg & Humbert, Kellogg Hewston & Co., etc.
4. Ophir was in Placer County, not to be confused with Mount Ophir in Mariposa County, where coiner John L. Moffat was rumored to have had a mint (subsequently dispelled by Dr. Don Kagin).
5. San Francisco City Directories and *San Francisco Call* October 11th and 13th, 1899.
- 6 . Medical Review of Reviews: July 25, 1902, pg. 702 and The Dental Digest Vol. VIII, pg. 434



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Handling Gold Dust at Fairbanks

By HUBERT L. ELLIS*

SYNOPSIS—With the discovery of placer gold in the Yukon, gold dust became the usual medium of commercial exchange. It was valued at a fixed amount and dilution was a regular practice. Most of it averaged from \$15 to \$17 an ounce, and \$16 was the value in exchange. Banks computed for its purchase until some were bankrupt, when an assay basis and percentage deduction were made standard. Melting and casting into bricks is not practiced for transportation by mail or express. Special methods of assay are described.

The first discovery of gold in the Yukon drainage basin was made on the Tanana in the early '70s. In 1886 the Fortymile placers, and in the early '90s the Koyukuk, Rampart, and Birch Creek deposits were found, probably in the order named. But it remained for the discovery of the bonanzas of the Klondike, in 1896, to give mining in the region tributary to the Yukon River its first big impetus. The overflow from the Dawson stampede led indirectly to the discovery of pay at Fairbanks in 1903, and the overflow from Fairbanks led to the finding of important placers in other parts of the American Yukon, notably at Iditarod and Ruby.¹

GOLD DUST AS AN EXCHANGE MEDIUM

This area, including the similar deposits of the adjacent Canadian Yukon, has produced gold to the value of more than \$200,000,000. The development of a mining industry of such magnitude in an isolated region with its new and peculiar conditions naturally involved the introduction of many practices uncommon in other parts of the world. In the absence of coin and banknotes, raw gold dust became the universal medium of exchange, and for years a pair of scales was essential to every commercial transaction, even down to the purchase of a cigar or a drink. With the coming of the banks, currency was exchanged for the miners' gold, and the banks became buyers of gold dust on a large scale. This buying of dust has long been one of the most important lines of activity of the banks of the North, and it is a line unknown under similar conditions to banks in other parts of the world.

Gold dust as a medium of exchange reached its highest and most interesting development at Dawson. That camp was discovered in 1896, and in the course of two or three years the production leaped to a maximum of nearly \$20,000,000 for a single season. Thousands of Argonauts flocked into the Klondike, but since they were seekers of gold, they naturally brought no currency with them. Banks were early established, but the production was so great and the demand for currency so insistent that the few millions of currency which they put in circulation annually was but a drop in the bucket. It was only about 1902, when the exhaustion of the bonanzas had brought in its wake a dwindling of production, that banknotes became sufficiently abundant to supply the needs of the population.

Dawson gold dust circulated at \$16 an ounce flat, but it was worth, on the average, appreciably less than that. The more it was handled, the lower became the grade. Just as it was not regarded as a business offense to "high-grade" at Fairbank, so it was considered perfectly fair to dilute a "poke" of gold dust with black sand at Dawson—nor did not the succeeding owner say himself from loss by passing it on to someone else. On a few occasions brass filings were also used for purposes of dilution, but this was generally held to be a reprehensible practice bordering on downright dishonesty, and died from the lack of public sanction. The last holder of the dust, the one who sold it on an assay basis, invariably lost money on the transaction, which was probably one reason why gold dust held its popularity so long as a medium of exchange, since nobody wanted to be the "goat."

MANY SWINDLING METHODS

There were other methods of robbery in vogue at Dawson besides diluting the dust. The scales were usually set on a strip of carpet, and sometimes a tub was placed beneath the counter, out of sight of the customers; the few grains of gold carefully spilled each time a weighing was made were thus saved, and in the course of time they made a respectable total. It was considered good form, especially in the saloons, to hand the poke to the cashier and allow him to help himself. Needless to say, the "house" never got the worst of the bargain, especially on occasions when the owner of the poke had reached that psychologically interesting stage in his alcoholism when every cloud had a golden lining and each chance by stander took the place of a long-lost friend. The position of porter in the saloons and dance-halls, carrying with it the inestimable privilege of sweeping the floor (and, incidentally, of pouring the sweonges) was eagerly sought. Usually the "house" got a certain proportion of the gold recovered by "sweeping off."

Most of the gold produced at Dawson averaged between \$15 and \$17 an ounce in value but, as noted above, the grade depreciated in handling, yet it all had a nominal value of \$16. One ounce which sometimes weighed more than \$16 frequently exchanged at a premium for dust of a lower grade with little or no loss.

There never was much demand for dust coming to the coast at first, and it was not long before a market was established for the first time. The dust gradually became "soiled" and "degraded." It was the interesting part of that currency when an ounce of "degraded" dust at Dawson of 15 days' travel would be sold at the North for 25 cents a piece. No currency was made in the North to eastward of Fairbanks, however. California in the early days of her mining boom made much dust and bars of gold, and some of this was shipped to the coast and exchanged for currency. The currency was made in the North from the early days of mining, and the currency was made in the North from the early days of mining, and the currency was made in the North from the early days of mining.

In the currency of Alaska, but the gold dust was not used as a medium of exchange. The currency was made in the North from the early days of mining, and the currency was made in the North from the early days of mining.

*Fairbanks, Alaska.

¹The writer is indebted to the Hon. James W.ickersham, of the American Bank of Alaska, for most of the facts on which this paper is based and for much advice and criticism.

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RECENT MINING BY BARS IN PURCHASE. In 1904, the Fairbanks gold-mining district was producing 11,000 ounces of gold, which would seem to be reasonable enough in view of the 50' channel at Fairbanks in the early days. So much attention was made by the miners, however, that the bar was some 20% of the total output of the district. The gold is produced by the miners, and is of various sizes. The goldsmiths are not licensed, and the bars are not stamped. They are made of pure gold, and are of various sizes. The goldsmiths are not licensed, and the bars are not stamped. They are made of pure gold, and are of various sizes.

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THE MINING OF GOLD IN THE KINGS OF THE GOLD

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ANALYSIS OF GOLD BARS OF DIFFERENT SIZES

Weight of bar	Weight of gold	Weight of silver	Weight of copper	Weight of iron	Weight of lead
100.00	99.99	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
50.00	49.99	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
25.00	24.99	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
12.50	12.49	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
6.25	6.24	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
3.12	3.11	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
1.56	1.55	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
0.78	0.77	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
0.39	0.38	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
0.19	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

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with hammer) to follow the horizontal of a top of rock. The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand. The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand.

The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand. The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand. The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand. The hammer is held in the right hand, and the rock is struck with the left hand.

Each model is used in batches of 12 in a 10x10 in. gasoline fuel bottle. For parting, a 12-oz. platinum basket and dish is used. The first boiling is in acid of 22° B and lasts 10 min.; the second lasts 10 min. in 22° acid. Since practically all the silver is removed in the first boiling, the strong acid from one batch is diluted roughly to 22° and used for the first boiling on the succeeding batch. When many assays are to be made, two sets of baskets are used, and these are lifted from one solution to the other to avoid the delay of waiting each time for the acid to come to 22° B.

The Centennial-Eureka Accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The facts concerning the accident in the Oklahoma stopes of the Centennial-Eureka mine, in Tintic, Utah, which occurred Sept. 14, are as follows: The country in which the catastrophe occurred was timbered up tight to the roof of the stopes. Owing to the fact that the country was more or less rocky, extraordinary care had been taken by the timbering and by bolting the sets to protect any sudden fall of rock. According to the statements of the two men who were present at the time of the fall of rock came without any previous indication whatever. The operator told the miners that about 1920 the entire extent of the stopes a short time before the accident, they were under an unusual pressure owing upon the timbers and no movement was to be seen. The shift boss in charge had been out through the stopes, and had left it 10 or 15 min. before the accident. There was no indication of pressure on the timbers while he was in the stopes.

The cause of the accident is therefore, not known. It is a reasonable supposition that some geological fault had been working along the country and that some part of the rock had come out of the rock. It is the fact that the rock was under an unusual pressure and that the rock was under an unusual pressure and that the rock was under an unusual pressure.

Then there was a sudden fall of rock, and the man was killed. The man was killed by the rock, and the man was killed by the rock. The man was killed by the rock, and the man was killed by the rock.

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Norwegian Molybdenite

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The molybdenite deposits of Norway range from 1 to 2% MoS₂. The mineral generally occurs in granite and gneiss, and in joints or following small quartz veins, and many attempts to handle it profitably have failed. The Krabben deposit in South Norway, operated for some years by the Blackwell company, a British corporation, with an annual output of about 25 tons, has been practically successful, but the mines are believed to be exhausted now. Another commercial attempt was the British Molybdenite Co., Ltd., at Dersdalen, about 1906. An output of 100 tons of 3 to 4% ore, and a ton of wolfram were secured with an outlay of about £30,000 (\$50,000). Another operation was conducted in 1912 at Langvass, in Sætersdalen, near the west coast, by the Gewerkschaft Bergbau und Hütten, Gotha. The results for seven months' work, of 5410 man-shifts, was about 3100 tons of material, which yielded 1,000 tons of crude ore and 2,000 tons of waste rock. On the crude ore averaging 2.5% MoS₂, 200 tons were milled, yielding 1920 kg. of ore assaying 51% MoS₂ and 10,030 kg. of slag running about 1.2% MoS₂. The trouble is the amount of waste rock, but must be less than that of recovery of content.

In the valleys of Luster and Mandal, the Kviteseid company in 1912 and transported mulling machinery to the mines at Knabenheim. The Fjotland district, in that same province, is probably the richest in this mineral at present in Norway. Near Røss, in Nedenes province, an English company, Nedenes Molybdenite, Ltd., following a series of previous to conducting a flotation mill. The output of the mill is about 100 tons of ore were secured.

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“The Franklin Hoard”

**By
Karl Moulton**

JOHN J. FORD, Jr.

&

The “Franklin Hoard”

- *In His Own Words* -



**by
Karl Moulton**

As announced earlier this year in the 'Brasher Bulletin' the long awaited book by Karl Moulton on the 'Franklin Hoard' is now in print. I was able to briefly page through Fred Holabirds copy at the recent Long Beach Coin Expo and was very impressed. This book is massive and contains a vast amount of history and information regarding not only John J. Ford but it is a who' who in this area of numismatics. Although not inexpensive, and possible not for everyone, Karl has done a fantastic job of piecing together virtually everything on the subject.

Please contact Karl at the address below for additional information.

P.O. Box 1073
Congress, AZ 85332

Kagin's Remaining 2013 Show Schedule



8/13-8/17	Chicago	ANA World's Fair of Money
8/12	Chicago	PRE SHOW/PNG DAY
9/6-9/8	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Coin Show
9/19-9/21	Philadelphia	Philadelphia Whitman Expo
9/26-9/28	Long Beach	Long Beach Coin show
Dates TBA	San Francisco	Old SF Mint Show
11/7-11/10	Baltimore	Baltimore Whitman Expo
11/21-11/24	Chicago	Professional Currency Dealers Association Annual Show

Discovery Period 1 California Fractional Gold

By Mike Locke

Round Dollar size period I California Fractional Gold coins are well known for being difficult to collect. There are 7 published varieties and the most common of those is rated High Rarity 6. The most recently published new variety was BG-606 in 1956.

The following coin was discovered in 2013 and would be most appropriately assigned number BG-603A. It has the reverse of BG603 is a late die state combined with a new obverse that is similar BG-601, but slightly different.



Newly discovered BG-603A. Note the weak lettering on reverse.



BG-601. Note the high placement of N and D on the reverse that makes this die distinct.



BG-603. Note the relatively bold lettering on the reverse.

Comparing the obverses of BG-601 and BG-603A, it is noted that the bust tip is shaped differently, the star nearest the bust tip is closer to the tip on BG-603A, and the star to the right of the upper hair bun points to the middle of the bun on BG-603A but to the bottom of the hair bun on BG-601. More subtle differences include the stars on BG-603A are slighter than on BG-601, many of the stars on BG-603A are clearly double punched but not so on BG-601, the denticles are longer on BG-603A, and the portrait is weak on the right of BG-603A while it is weak on the left of BG-601.

Determination of where BG-601 fits into the emission sequence requires close up examination of a good condition BG-607. The only published image of BG-607 is the Roe specimen, but that coin is too damaged to determine if it was struck with the obverse die of BG-601 or BG-603A.

Brasher Bulletin 2013 Publishing Schedule

The Brasher Bulletin is scheduled for quarterly issues for 2013.

Your articles, advertising, and comments are needed by the quarterly deadlines as noted here.

Publishing Deadlines

September 2nd, 2013

December 2nd, 2013



**The Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics Invites You
to the 2013 Annual Meeting**

**Please join us Saturday, August 17th at 11am at the Donald E
Stephens Convention Center.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

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We are always looking for submissions and articles to publish in the 'Brasher.' Don't be shy, try your hand at writing and share an experience or interesting subject with membership. Please submit your content to Beth Catcher at beth@kagins.com.



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These are much rarer than their 1849-dated counterparts.

The first enterprise to produce gold coins from California gold dust was not located in California, but in the Territory of Deseret -- later to be known as Utah. Not only were the first western private gold coins issued by the Deseret Assay Office under the auspices of the Mormon Church, but they preceded private coinage in California by over five months. And, unlike other private coining operations, the coins of the Deseret Assay Office were conceived, executed, and distributed by a religious community from gold dust deposited as part of their church's tithing. The source of gold was the Mormon Battalion, a party of approximately 500 volunteers who fought in the war with Mexico that ended July 1848. Meanwhile, another Mormon party had arrived in San Francisco on the Ship Brooklyn with 238 Latter-Day Saints including Sam Brannan. Prior to the Saint's immigration, the population of Yerba Buena -- later to be known as San Francisco -- was 200. This party of 238 Mormons effectively made the city, as historian Bancroft observe, "Largely a Mormon town"...

Read more in *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* on Amazon and in your local bookstores.

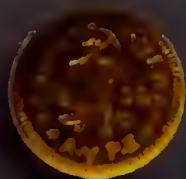
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